

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) A vacuum system for removing sawdust from a worktable, the system comprising:

a rigid overhead conduit assembly configured for mounting over a worktable having a cutting area around a circular saw blade, the cutting area having a workpiece intake side, and the saw blade having a lead cutting edge adjacent the workpiece intake side of the cutting area;

a vacuum source connected to the overhead conduit assembly; and

a hood assembly pivotally connected to the conduit assembly, wherein the hood assembly can be lowered to substantially cover the cutting area, and alternately raised out of the way of the cutting area, the hood assembly having an air intake opening in front of the lead cutting edge of the saw blade for drawing air and debris from the cutting area;

wherein the hood assembly has two side panels each side panel having a side skirt that pivots and slides relative to a single point on the side panel to accommodate a workpiece moving through the cutting area, and to minimize air intake from outside the hood assembly, the air intake opening being permitted to drop behind a trailing edge of the workpiece while the side skirts are supported on a top surface of the workpiece while the workpiece moves through the cutting area.

25. (previously added) The system of claim 24, wherein the vacuum source draws air and debris through the air intake, through the overhead conduit assembly to a debris collection chamber.

26. (cancelled)

Page 2 - AMENDMENT
Serial No. 09/253,110

27. (previously added) The system of claim 26, wherein each side panel is connected to the respective side skirt by a pivot pin and slot mechanism.

28. (previously added) The system of claim 24, wherein the hood assembly is made of a material that is substantially transparent.

29. (previously added) The system of claim 24, wherein the hood assembly has a forwardly inclined nose panel that first contacts a workpiece moving through the cutting area.